



ANNA JULIA COOPER SCHOOL
ANNUAL REPORT
2021-2022



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A MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL

The 2021-2022 school year at AJC was, like all the others, exciting, moving and not without its challenges.

I'd like to highlight our Mission Statement 2.0, which we revised and updated as part of the several-year process of expansion and continuous efforts to improve every aspect of the life of the School. It was a lengthy process, but we found the right words. It's the articulation of who we are, what we do, and who we aspire to be, and I'd encourage you to read it in the pages that follow. Pay particular attention to bullet number two. If you are a donor or volunteer, I hope it resonates with your experience.

We are working our way down to kindergarten, and this year we opened 2nd and 3rd grades for the first time. It didn't take long to see what a difference it makes to start earlier. And what a delight to have little people in the building! We experienced firsthand what we knew to be true all along: the only variable as or more critical than a high-quality and committed staff is starting sooner so that our students have less ground to make up and more time to flourish.

It took a while, but we finally moved into the new building around Thanksgiving. What a blessing and a treat to take occupancy in a brand-new space. While we wanted a full-blown celebration, it was a more quiet and muted occupation. Masks were still very much in evidence, most of our students unvaccinated, and at that point in time we were remaining cautious about mixing pods and classes. It's fair to say that teachers and students alike celebrated by enjoying a new home.

The gym began getting constant use, most notably as we began our Friday and Saturday night Open Gym for AJC students and the wider neighborhood. For me it is one of those things—I'm unaware of anyone else is doing it—that makes AJC stand out. We want to be an open door and we want to welcome others. What a thrill, too, to have our own graduation at our own School and to host home games during the winter and spring. Particularly those who have been around since the early days were pinching themselves.

When the year ended, staff felt like it had been a more challenging and draining year than '20 – '21 when we operated in the teeth of Covid feeling our way forward and putting in place every possible mitigation practice to maintain in-person school. While so much of that gradually eased this year, there was a cumulative effect which caught up with us and we saw that firsthand in the students, too. The effects of Covid will be with us for years to come.

Special thanks to our donors who came through so generously this year and to whom I always feel so grateful as they (you!) make AJC possible. You are supporting a special place. As one graduating 8th grader mentioned when he saw the revised Mission Statement, "it all sounds good to me, but you didn't say

anything about the joy we feel here." He was right. So we immediately amended our just completed Statement to include that oh-so true fact about life at AJC.

Sincerely,



M. Maruca

Michael Maruca
Head of School

OUR MISSION

The mission of Anna Julia Cooper School is to love, educate, and uplift its students and graduates so that they may realize their God-given gifts.

Our way of proceeding:

- We provide full-tuition scholarships to K-8th grade students with limited financial resources who reside primarily in Richmond's East End
- We aspire to be a school that mutually benefits our students and those who provide the human and financial resources to make it possible
- We are faith-based, believing that Jesus is the fullest expression of God's love for us
- We strive to be a place where people find and experience joy
- We are in it for the long haul, supporting students as they transition to high school and pursue their own paths into adulthood
- We value all staff, parents, volunteers, and donors as integral to our success as a School and a community of affection
- We embrace the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of our namesake in this challenging and life-changing work



STARTING SOONER, CHANGING THE ODDS

The 2021-2022 school year was brimming with blessings and milestones. Completion of the new Middle School Building was second only to our expansion into 2nd and 3rd grades. In the Fall of 2021, 2nd and 3rd grade students walked through our doors to join our 'community of affection' for the very first time.

Our Lower School is now home to 2nd-5th grades and halls are an ever-changing landscape of student art. Classrooms overflow with joyful energy and students have been enveloped by the sanctuary that is AJC.



Reaching students as early as possible may be one of the most important factors in fulfilling our mission and was the catalyst for our Building Hope Campaign. Skyla, a second grader, recently shared, "I feel really happy here, like this is my home, where I belong." We aim for all students to experience the strong sense of belonging when they walk through our doors. This is the foundation for building hope -- and future academic success.



2021-2022 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Hired highly qualified, compassionate, 2nd and 3rd grade teachers, and support staff, including Teacher Aides, Academic Interventionist, and Outpatient Therapist
- Expanded Curriculum
- Equipped 2nd and 3rd grade classrooms
- Enrolled 24 new students

BUILDING HOPE

With the goal of expanding our mission and reach, AJC launched the Building Hope Campaign in mid 2018. Our \$16 Million campaign goal was achieved this year, a testament to the generosity of our like-minded supporters who believe every child deserves the opportunity to reach their full potential.

As a result of this incredible generosity, we now have the space and capacity to reach more students -- and a facility where the dreams of home basketball games, PE classes, graduation ceremonies, and community "open gyms" have become a reality.

The 2021-2022 school year was full of milestones made possible by our Building Hope Campaign: We opened the doors to our beautiful new Middle School and Gymnasium, expanded our staff - affectionately known as "our AJC family" - and enrolled 24 new rising 2nd and 3rd grade students.



Our new Middle School houses 6th-8th grades and features eight classrooms, a gymnasium and stage, three huddle/study rooms, a cafeteria/multipurpose space, library, graduate support space, administrative offices, and a colorful mural of our namesake, Anna Julia Cooper.



AT A GLANCE

144

students, all who
received full-tuition
scholarships



1:14

average teacher
to student ratio



100%

participation in biannual
parent/student/teacher
conferences



243

total graduates
from AJC



1:2

ratio of highly engaged
volunteers to students





FINANCIAL SUMMARY

JULY 1ST, 2021 - JUNE 30TH, 2022

REVENUE*

Donor Type	Amount
Individuals	\$2,063,738
Foundations	\$524,207
Corporations	\$48,856
Churches/Civic Support	\$81,642
USDA Reimbursements	\$130,387
Other**	\$459,242
TOTAL	\$3,308,072

EXPENSES*

Category	Amount
Program	\$2,398,742
Graduate Support	\$178,214
Management & General	\$529,579
Fundraising	\$201,537
TOTAL	\$3,308,072

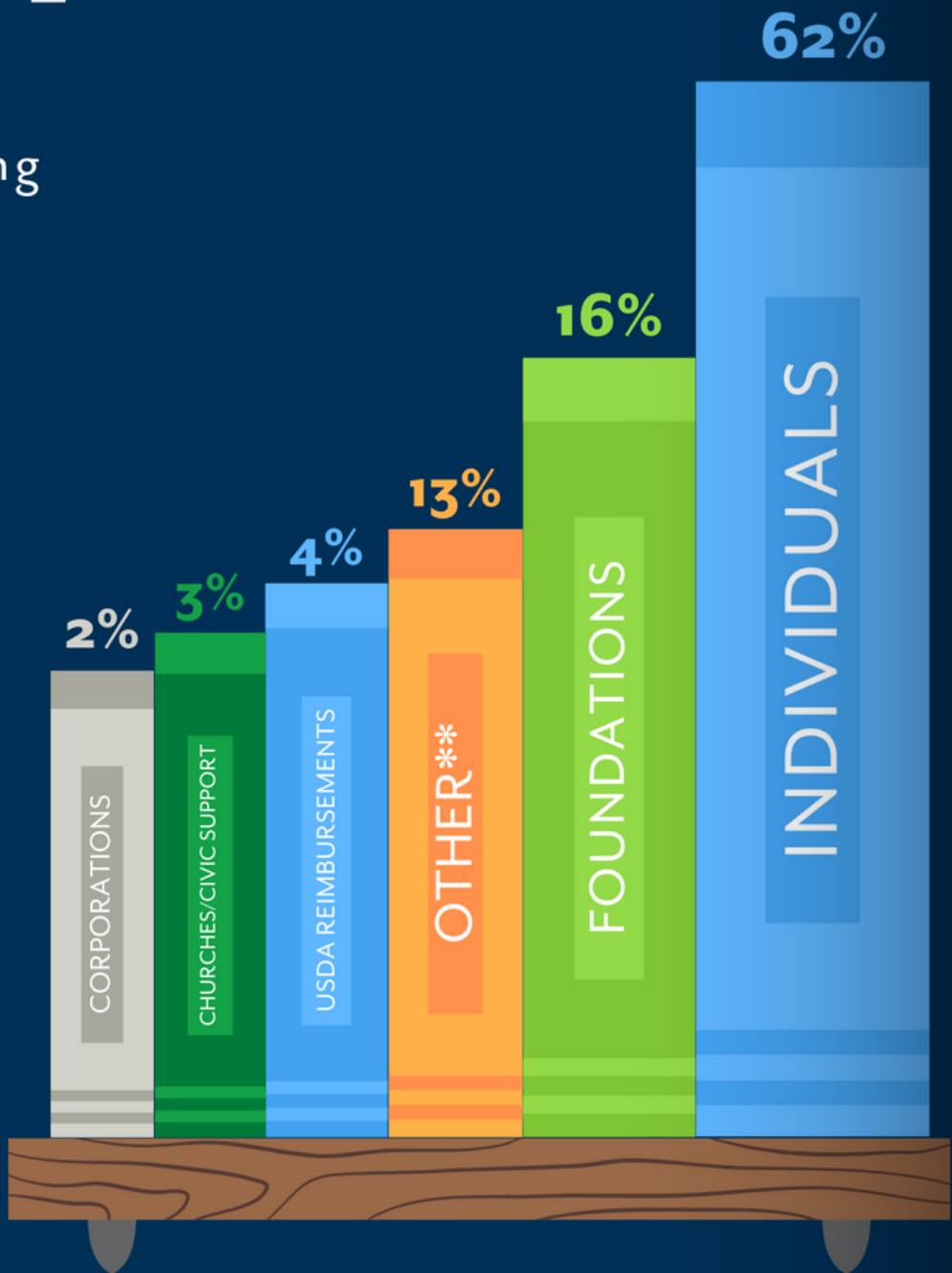
*These figures do not include capital expenses, Building Hope campaign pledges, donated goods/services, or existing restricted endowment funds, all of which are included in our audit and may be found on our website, ajcschool.org.

** Includes \$295,226 from the operational reserve component of the Building Hope Campaign, which was intended to offset annual expense increases due to the expansion.

REVENUE

Total Operating Revenue*

\$3,308,072



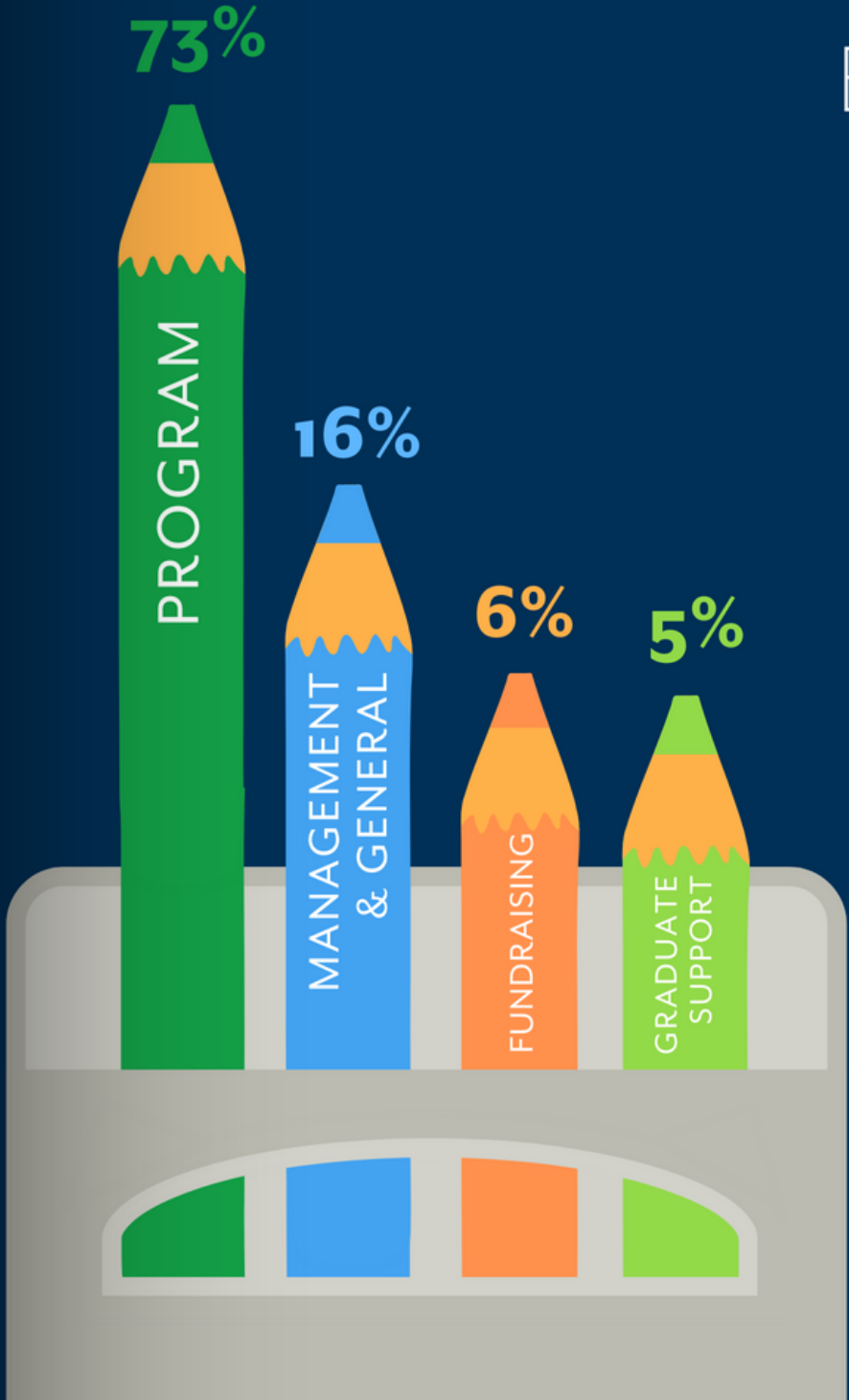
*These figures represent activity from 7/1/21-6/30/22 and do not include capital expenses, Building Hope campaign pledges, donated goods/services, or existing restricted endowment funds, all of which are included in our audit and may be found on our website, ajcschool.org.

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EXPENSES

Total Operating Expenses*

\$3,308,072



*These figures represent activity from 7/1/21-6/30/22 and do not include capital expenses, Building Hope campaign pledges, donated goods/services, or existing restricted endowment funds, all of which are included in our audit and may be found on our website, ajcschool.org.



FIRST ANNUAL GORDAN WALLACE DAY OF GIVING

Gordon was instrumental in founding the School in 2009, served as board chair for the first eight years and remained an active board member until his passing in 2021. On April 20, 2022, we celebrated the first annual Gordon W. Wallace, Jr. Day of Giving as a way to continue to honor Gordon, to bolster the memorial endowment fund established in his name, and as a day of service and remembrance at AJC.

After an afternoon of service projects, we concluded the day with a special chapel service that highlighted some of Gordon's many wonderful qualities. The service closed with students, staff, and several of Gordon's family, saying the prayer that Gordon wrote shortly before his passing. His spirit is very much a part of the School's DNA, and his inspiring words provide us with a sense of love and hope for the future.



GORDON W. WALLACE JR.
HALL



Lord, make us thankful for these and all our many blessings:

*Thank you for Love,
that we can accept each other;*

*for Strength,
that we can help each other;*

*for Wisdom,
that we can understand each other;*

*for Faith,
that we can hang in there until things
get better. Amen*

SPOTLIGHT ON GRADUATE SUPPORT

As a school, we have always promised to be beside our students for the long haul. Our graduate support team starts working with students in their 7th grade year to begin the conversation about high school placement. In 8th grade, students complete our High School Prep curriculum, and Graduate Support works hand-in-hand with students and their families as they go through the application process. We are proud that 94% of all AJC graduates have graduated from high school, which is higher than both the state and national graduation rate.

But it doesn't stop there. We support our students through high school and as they navigate their next steps after graduation. And while that can look like offering class recommendations or securing transportation to an after-school job, it can also mean outfitting a dorm room, practicing for a job interview, or helping to find furniture for that first apartment.

Our students may graduate from AJC in the 8th grade, but our relationships continue to grow long after they leave our halls. Perhaps most telling of all, our Graduate Support Team is in direct contact with 95% of all AJC graduates.

243

total AJC graduates

95%

of graduates remain
in touch with AJC

40%

of AJC alumni went on
to attend a 2 or 4 year
college in 2022

90%

of grads enroll in area
independent schools,
many receiving tuition
support from AJC





ANNA JULIA COOPER SCHOOL CLASS OF 2022

STAFF & BOARD

Leadership

MIKE MARUCA, Head of School
YOLANDA GILLIAM, Principal
LINTON WADE, Dean of Students and Athletics Director
MARY KATHRYN "KATYE" SNIPES, School Administrator
LAURA MCGOWAN, Director of Development and Communications

Faculty & Staff

INGRID ADDISON, Admissions
CAROL ALLEN, Librarian
SUSAN BARSTOW, Curriculum & Instructional Support
KELVIN BELTON, Building Manager
CHRISTA BENTON, Director of Counseling & Student Life
MICHAEL CRANE, Science
MARY DESCH, Director of Graduate Placement & Support
JENESSE EVERTSON, 2nd Grade
NOEL FAUNTLEROY, Assistant Coordinator for Food Services
CHRISTY GORE, 4th Grade
ABBY HARSH, Math
MEREAL HUGHES, Science & English
LORIN JOHNSON, Graduate Support Coordinator
BRIAN KEIPER, Social Studies & History
DEANDRE LOUIS-JEAN, Lower School Kitchen
STEVE MCNAMEE, 5th Grade
KRISSE MORLEY, Development & Communications
JONATHAN SCOTT, Dishwasher Swing Cook
LAURIE SHADOWEN, Math & Social Studies
QASARAH SPENCER, Lower School Administrator
VICTORIA SUTTON, 3rd Grade
PAIGE TRIVETT, Development & Communications
SHOLA WALKER, Director of Food Services
JAMES WAKE, Maintenance
IAN WEBER, Administrative Coordinator
KELLY WEBER, English

Board of Directors

GUSSIE BANNARD, former Head, St. Catherine's School
LAUREN BROWN, former Elementary Teacher, Collegiate School
RAE COUSINS, Counsel, Brown-Greer, LLP
BETSY FAUNTLEROY, AJC Board Secretary, Community Volunteer
SHELTON HORSLEY, Senior Client Portfolio Manager, Thompson, Siegel & Walmsley LLC
TOM HORTON, former President, Monument Restaurants, LLC
JILL HUNTER, AJC Board Chair, former Head of Lower School, Collegiate School
CHARLES KLEINDIENST, President, Nerds to Go
MAGGIE MCGEORGE, former V.P. of Corporate Finance and Research, John Hancock Financial Services
TANISHA MOYER, Chair, AJC Parents' Association
JOHN PULLEN, Chief Growth Officer, Luck Companies
GARRETT SAWYER, SVP, People Development, WayForth
WILLIAM "MO" SHUMATE, former President, M & R Constructors
CHRISTOPHER SNOW, Managing Director, Snowbird Investments, LLC
MEG WALKER, Community Volunteer
MIKE WALKER, Consultant
ELIZABETH WALLACE, Community Volunteer
FLEET WALLACE, Managing Principal, McCann Realty Partners
BRENT WINN, AJC Board Treasurer, Chief Financial Officer, Medalist Diversified REIT

Emeritus

JOHN STANCHINA
WESLEY WRIGHT, Jr.



ANNA JULIA COOPER
SCHOOL

faith • knowledge • pride

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